

HOUSE BILL 2679

By Casada

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, relative to permitting the operation of medium speed vehicles on public highways.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-1-103(3), is amended by adding the language "or medium speed vehicle" following the language "low speed vehicle" and before the language "as defined in this section".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 55-1-1\_\_.

“Medium-speed vehicle” means any four-wheeled electric vehicle, excluding golf-carts, whose top speed is greater than thirty miles per hour (30 mph) but not greater than thirty-five miles per hour (35 mph), including neighborhood electric vehicles.

Medium-speed vehicles must meet or exceed the federal safety standards set forth in 49 CFR 571.500.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-111, is amended by adding the following language to the end of the present language:

CLASS (G) Medium-speed vehicles -- registration fee. . . . . \$9.50

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-8-101(31), is amended by deleting the present language in its entirety and substituting instead the following language:

(31) "Motor vehicle" means every vehicle, including a low speed vehicle or a medium speed vehicle as defined in this section, that is self-propelled, excluding speed motorized bicycles, and every vehicle, including a low speed vehicle or a medium

vehicle as defined in this section, that is propelled by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires, but not operated upon rails;

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-8-101, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subsection and by redesignating the section accordingly:

( ) "Medium speed vehicle" means any four-wheeled electric vehicle, excluding golf carts, whose top speed is greater than thirty miles per hour (30 mph) but not more than thirty-five miles per hour (35 mph) and otherwise meets or exceeds the federal safety standards set forth in 49 CFR 571.500;

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-8-191, is amended by deleting subsection (b) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following language:

(b) A medium speed vehicle as defined in 55-8-101 may be operated at a rate not to exceed thirty-five miles per hour (35 mph) only on streets where the posted speed limit is forty miles per hour (40 mph) or less. This does not prohibit a medium speed vehicle from crossing a road or street at an intersection where the road or street has a posted speed limit of more than forty miles per hour (40 mph).

(1) A county or municipality may prohibit the operation of medium speed vehicles on any road under its jurisdiction if the governing body of the county or municipality determines that such prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.

(2) The department of transportation may prohibit the operation of medium speed vehicles on any road under its jurisdiction if it determines that such prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.

(c) Any person operating a low speed vehicle or medium speed vehicle must have in possession a valid Class D driver license.

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-50-102, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subsection and by redesignating the remaining sections accordingly:

( ) “Medium-speed vehicle” means any four-wheeled electric vehicle whose top speed is greater than thirty miles per hour (30 mph) but not greater than thirty-five miles per hour (35 mph), including neighborhood vehicles. Medium-speed vehicles must meet or exceed the federal safety standards set forth in 49 CFR 571.500;

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-50-102, is further amended in subsection (38) by adding the language "or medium speed vehicle" following the language "low speed vehicle" and before the language "as defined in this section,".

SECTION 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008, the public welfare requiring it.